

OLC #78-1879

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24 May 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing for Congressman Derwinski on Africa

1. On Tuesday, May 23, I briefed Congressman Edward Derwinski (R-Ill.) and a group of other Congressmen he had invited on Africa. The other participants were: Congressmen Robert Baumann (R-Md.), Philip Crane (R-Ill.), Tom Corcoran (R-Ill.), Robert Dornan (R-Calif.), Larry McDonald (R-Ga.), and John Cunningham (R-Wash.). Thomas Smeeton of the Minority Staff of the House International Relations Committee attended as did [redacted] of the Office of Legislative Counsel.

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2. The session lasted approximately an hour and a half. Countries covered were Ethiopia, Zaire, Rhodesia, Zambia, Angola, Namibia, and (briefly) Chad. I basically provided a current intelligence update on each of the countries, responding to questions as I went along. I was lectured by Congressman Dornan on the dire pitfalls awaiting US foreign policy in Africa--and, of course, explained that CIA did not make nor defend policy, that was the job of the State Department and the White House. Congressman McDonald lectured me on the evils of Marxism (particularly in Africa), and wanted to know why CIA didn't stop the Communist advance before Africa was back in the Twelfth Century. I responded as I had to Mr. Dornan. Other than these incidents, the briefing went quite smoothly, was apparently well received, and produced requests for Agency Factbooks and the Africa map collection which will be forwarded to the Congressmen via OLC. STAT

[redacted]
Congressional Support Staff

cc: OLC - [redacted]

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